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December 10, 1965

Lee Harvey Oswald and Kennedy Assassination

Elena Garro de Paz, Mexican writer; wife of Octavio Paz
Charles Wm. Thomas, Political Officer

(15)

AMB, DCM, P, P/R, CED, L

In the course of a discussion about other matters, Sra. de Paz mentioned that she had met Lee Harvey Oswald, the presumed assassin of President John F. Kennedy. She was very reluctant to discuss the matter, but finally imparted the following information. Needless to say, the source of this information should be carefully protected.

1. In September, 1963, shortly after her return from abroad, she went to a party at the home of Rubén Durán, who is married to her cousin. Her daughter, Elenita, accompanied her. There she met Oswald and two other young Americans who were with him. The three young Americans remained apart from the other guests. She expressed an interest in talking to them, but was discouraged from doing so by some of the other guests.

2. Most of the guests at the party were Communists or philocommunists. She remembers seeing the Cuban Consul, Asquez (phonetic); General Clark Flores of the Mexican Olympic Committee; Silvia Durán, who she later learned was Oswald's mistress while he was here; Emilio Carballido, the writer, who she thinks is now in the United States; and a Latin American Negro man with red hair.

3. In November, 1963, when the identity of Kennedy's assassin became known, she and her daughter went to the Cuban Embassy and, once admitted through the front gate, shouted "assassin" and other insults at the staff there.

4. Shortly afterward, she and her daughter were visited by a friend, Manuel Carvillo, who was then an official in the Secretariat of Cob[illegible]ecion, and were told he had orders to escort them to a small and obscure hotel in the center of town. They were kept there for eight days under pretext that they were in danger.

Calvillo? Pres Sec'tr Hacienda
Sec'y of Ed.

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When she told Carvillo she wanted to go to the American Embassy and explain what she knew of Oswald's connections here with Mexican Communists and Cubans, she was told that the American Embassy was full of Communist spies. She said Carvillo tries to give the impression that he is an extreme rightist. He now has a job at Bellas Artes.

5. Some of the other people who were at the party with Oswald were taken to the state of Veracruz, where they were "protected" by Governor Lopez Arias. Rubén Durán is reportedly "protected" by General Clark Flores and is now driving a big car and looking very prosperous.

6. Many Communists and philocommunists here believe Kennedy's assassination was the result of a Communist plot engineered by Fidel Castro. Rubén Durán has subsequently told her that he is not really a Communist and that it had been a great mistake to kill Kennedy.

P/CWThomas:hag